



World Food Day



A # ZeroHunger world by 2030 is possible

Achieving food and nutritional security and better lives through livestock

More than two billion people worldwide are not getting all the nutrients they need. Micronutrient deficiency can lead to illness, physical stunting and impaired cognitive development. Animal-source foods—milk, meat and eggs—dense in essential micronutrients are among nature's 'first foods'. Providing poor people with greater access to these foods is a powerful way to improve human nutrition and wellbeing, both through the foods animals provide as well as through the income generated from animals, which poor households use to purchase nutritious foods.

In 2015, the international community adopted the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), one of which is to have 'zero hunger' by 2030. Livestock are critical to meeting this goal (SDG 2) to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. But with more than eight billion people to feed by 2030, and the need to do so with diminishing natural resources and a changing climate, sustainably increasing livestock productivity will require highly innovative and inclusive approaches.

As we celebrate this year's World Food Day, let us remember the many ways that livestock can help the world meet SDG 2. The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) is working with partners to bring about change in livestock-related practices, policies and investments in developing countries by generating scientific knowledge, exerting influence and developing capacity for more equitable, broad-based and sustainable livestock development.

Livestock and livelihoods



Globally, about **1 billion** people benefit from livestock in different ways. Almost half of these depend on livestock for their livelihoods.



Animal-source foods (meat, milk and eggs) provide **40%** of the world's **protein** supply.



Over the last 30 years, consumption of **meat, milk and eggs** in low- and middle-income countries has more than **tripled**.



Including animal-source foods in the diets of most infants in poor households in their first **1000 days of life** (up to two years of age) is critical for meeting their basic **nutritional needs**.



Eggs, meat and dairy products are **3 of the 7** food groups deemed by the World Health Organization to be **essential** in assessing the dietary diversity of infants.

What ILRI and its livestock partners are doing to help achieve zero hunger

ILRI and its partners are working together to build a world where the communities of developing and emerging economies are empowered with the most reliable livestock-related knowledge, where sustainable livestock productivity is fully and equitably supported, where women and men both are livestock decision-makers, and where no one goes hungry and thereby fails to achieve their full potential.

ILRI works with partners to undertake research that leads to development outcomes that:

- Combat food insecurity and malnutrition through research to raise livestock productivity levels.
- Enhance food safety through the implementation of early-warning and risk-reduction systems.
- Ensure women have equal access to, control over and ownership of economic, land and other resources.
- Strengthen scientific and technological capacity to make livestock systems more sustainable.
- Ensure livestock development is compatible with adaption to, and mitigation of, climate change.
- Conserve the genetic diversity of farm animals and promote access to, and fair and equitable sharing of, benefits arising from such resources.
- Strengthen partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise and technology in sustainable livestock development.

Greater investments in sustainable livestock research for development can sustainably nourish the world's rapidly growing population. Working together and using livestock as powerful instruments of poverty reduction, we can build a world free of hunger.

ILRI envisions a world where all people have access to enough food and nutrition to reach their maximum potential. It works to make this a reality through research for efficient, safe and sustainable use of livestock, thereby ensuring better lives through livestock.



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ILRI thanks all donors and organizations which globally support its work through their contributions to the [CGIAR Trust Fund](#)

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